

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Original): An apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~, further comprising:

(A) a driving device which drives a focus adjusting system; and

(B) a control device having a driving mode for minutely driving said focus adjusting system before a climbing-drive mode, which, in said driving mode, repeatedly performs determination of a focusing state of said focus adjusting system while causing said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system, and, if said focus adjusting system has been driven in one direction until the number of times of the determination repeatedly performed reaches a predetermined number of times, inverts said focus adjusting system from being driven in said one direction; and

an image pickup device which receives a light flux taken in through said focus adjusting system,

wherein said control device controls said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system in such a direction as to increase a predetermined high-frequency component of a picked-up image signal from said image pickup device.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An apparatus ~~according to claim 9~~, comprising:

(A) a driving device which drives a focus adjusting system; and

(B) a control device having a driving mode for minutely driving said focus adjusting system before a climbing-drive mode, which, in said driving mode, repeatedly performs determination of a focusing state of said focus adjusting system while causing said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system, and, if said focus adjusting system has been driven in one direction until the number of times of the determination repeatedly performed reaches a predetermined number of times, inverts said focus adjusting system from being driven in said one direction,

wherein said control device controls said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system in such a direction as to bring said focus adjusting system into an in-focus state, and

wherein, if said focus adjusting system has been driven within a predetermined range for a predetermined period of time, said control device determines that said focus adjusting system is in an in-focus state.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 9, comprising:

A) a driving device which drives a focus adjusting system; and

(B) a control device having a driving mode for minutely driving said focus adjusting system before a climbing-drive mode, which, in said driving mode, repeatedly performs determination of a focusing state of said focus adjusting system while causing said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system, and, if said focus adjusting system has been driven in one direction until the number of times of the determination repeatedly performed reaches a predetermined number of times, inverts said focus adjusting system from being driven in said one direction,

wherein said control device controls said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system in such a direction as to bring said focus adjusting system into an in-focus state, and

wherein, if said focus adjusting system has been driven within a predetermined range for a predetermined period of time, said control device stops driving of said focus adjusting system by said driving device.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 9, comprising:

(A) a driving device which drives a focus adjusting system; and

(B) a control device having a driving mode for minutely driving said focus adjusting system before a climbing-drive mode, which, in said driving mode, repeatedly performs determination of a focusing state of said focus adjusting system while causing said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system, and, if said focus adjusting system has been driven in one direction until the number of times of the determination repeatedly performed reaches a predetermined number of times, inverts said focus adjusting system from being driven in said one direction,

wherein said control device controls said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system in such a direction as to bring said focus adjusting system into an in-focus state, and

wherein, if said focus adjusting system has been driven beyond a predetermined range in a predetermined period of time, said control device controls said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system at a faster speed in a direction in which said focus adjusting system has been driven.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 9, comprising:

(A) a driving device which drives a focus adjusting system; and

(B) a control device having a driving mode for minutely driving said focus adjusting system before a climbing-drive mode, which, in said driving mode, repeatedly performs determination of a focusing state of said focus adjusting system while causing said

driving device to drive said focus adjusting system, and, if said focus adjusting system has been driven in one direction until the number of times of the determination repeatedly performed reaches a predetermined number of times, inverts said focus adjusting system from being driven in said one direction,

wherein said control device controls said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system in such a direction as to bring said focus adjusting system into an in-focus state, and

wherein said control device has a first driving mode for minutely driving said focus adjusting system and a second driving mode for driving said focus adjusting system at high speed, and, in said first mode, if said focus adjusting system has been driven in one direction until the number of times of the determination repeatedly performed reaches the predetermined number of times, restrains said focus adjusting system from being driven in said one direction.

Claim 14 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein, in said first driving mode, if said focus adjusting system has been driven beyond a predetermined range in a predetermined period of time, said control device controls said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system in said second driving mode in a direction in which said focus adjusting system has been driven.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:

(A) a driving device which drives a focus adjusting system; and

(B) a control device having a driving mode for minutely driving said focus adjusting system before a climbing-drive mode, which, in said driving mode, repeatedly performs determination of a focusing state of said focus adjusting system while causing said

driving device to drive said focus adjusting system, and, if said focus adjusting system has been driven in one direction until the number of times of the determination repeatedly performed reaches a predetermined number of times, inverts said focus adjusting system from being driven in said one direction.

wherein, in said first driving mode, if said focus adjusting system has been driven beyond a predetermined range in a predetermined period of time, said control device controls said driving device to drive said focus adjusting system in said second driving mode in a direction in which said focus adjusting system has been driven.

Claims 17-28 (Canceled).